

Message Text

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TAGS: HABITAT, EGEN, SENV
SUBJ: COLOMBIA HABITAT CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

REF: USUN 6255, MEXICO 15849, BOGOTA 12539, 12540, AND 12589,
STATE 308069

1. PER REQUEST EMBASSY BOGOTA POST HAS RESEARCHED PLANNED
FOLLOW-UP CONGRESS OF HABITAT VANCOUVER (INTERHABITAT 77)
AND THE VI INTERAMERICAN CONGRESS ON HOUSING SCHEDULED FOR MEDELLIN
IN MARCH 1977 AND NOVEMBER 1977 RESPECTIVELY.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RODRIGO ARBOLEDA INTERVIEWED AND PROVIDED
FOLLOWING DETAILS. MARCH MEETING IS TO BE FIRST FOLLOW-UP OF
VANCOUVER ECLA CONFERENCE AND IS INTENDED TO EVALUATE POSITION
OF COLOMBIA IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING SECTORS.
ARBOLEDA STATES HABITAT CONCENTRATED ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR
ROLE. WE WANT TO SHOW THE NEED FOR POSITIVE SUPPORT OF THE
PRIVATE SECTOR.

3. MARCH MEETING IS AT NATIONAL LEVEL AND ARBOLEDA FORCASTS SOME
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300 - 400 PARTICIPANTS WILL ATTEND. HE FEELS MEDELLIN IS IDEAL
SITE SINCE MASTER PLAN FOR CITY CENTRAL CORE NEARING COMPLETION
AND PROVIDES EXCELLENT CITY PLANNING CASE STUDY. THIS MEETING
WILL ALSO SERVE AS PREPARATORY MEETING FOR INTER-AMERICAN HOUSING
CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER WITH SOME 600 - 800 PARTICIPANTS UNDER
SPONSORSHIP INTERAMERICAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

(FIIC).

4. INTERHABITAT 77 IS SPONSORED BY ANDI (ASSOC.NACIONAL DE INDUSTRIAS- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIES) CAMACOL (CAMARA COLOMBIANA DE LA CONSTRUCCION - COLOMBIAN CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION) INCOLDA (CENTRO DE DESAROLLO DE ANTIOQUIA- ANTIOQUIA DEVELOPMENT CENTER) AND VARIOUS WELL KNOWN HOUSING FINANCE ORGANIZATIONS IN COLOMBIA. HE CLAIMS UN APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING AS CONTINUATION HABITAT CONFERENCE INCLUDING USE UN LOGO AND HAS INITIAL APPROVAL FROM ORTIZ MENA OF INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (BID) FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP. OFFICE SPACE AND STAFF IN PLACE MEDELLIN THIS DATE.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RODRIGO ARBOLEDA IS MIT ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE (SUMMA CUM LAUDE 1965) AND IS WELL KNOWN TO THIS CONSULATE AS ONE OF THE CITY S FOREMOST YOUNG ARCHITECTS AND BUSINESSMEN. HE IS PRESENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS ANTIOQUIA REGION AND IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION AND FLOWER EXPORT BUSINESS. HE IS PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MEDELLIN BI-NATIONAL CENTER AND IS INVOLVED IN THE MASSACHUSETTS/ANTIOQUIA PARTNERS FOR THE ALLIANCE.

6. POST BELIEVES PROGRAM AND SPONSORSHIP IS SOUND AND RECOMMENDS U. S. PARTICIPATION AS EXCELLENT FOLLOW-UP SEPTEMBER ECLA MEETING.
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